

The movie, *Big Night*, portions out superb acting, delicious food, and the heartfelt portrayal of two brothers who have immigrated to the United States in search of the American dream. In the film the viewer will experience the difficulties of immigration, the frailties of human nature, and delicious recipes such as the timpano. However, what may not be obviously apparent is the symbolism throughout the film, more specifically the symbolism of heaven and hell. In my paper I would like to discuss the symbolism which the audience may miss during their first viewing but will add to their enjoyment and understanding of the film. I will read a paper and show scenes from the movie to illustrate the symbolism.

*Big Night*, released in 1994, takes place on the New Jersey shore in the mid-1950s and is well known and popular among food enthusiasts. The dinner scene in this film is comparable to other scenes in such important films as *Babette's Feast*, *Chocolat*, *Like Water for Chocolate*, and *Eat Drink Man Woman*.

My hope is that at the end of the presentation those who have seen the movie will want to view it again appreciating the symbolism and those who have not will be anxious to watch it for the first time.